Intelligence Community Staff

ICS-82-4018
31 August 1982

The Honorable Edward P. Boland, Chairman
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.  20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter responds to the HPSCI request in the FY 1983 NFIP markup that the DCI provide "an appraisal of current Community ADP development problems" and address the following questions:

a.  Why was the Information Resources Office (IRO) of the Intelligence Community Staff abolished with no effort to provide an alternative means of performing the Community management function; and

b.  What steps will be taken to strengthen the management and oversight of Community-wide ADP activities prior to the Fiscal Year 1984 budget submission?

Community ADP Development

With regard to an appraisal of the status of current Community ADP development problems, it appears that the SAFE and IAIPS projects are causing Community concerns.

You have recently been furnished a report by the Director, DIA which incorporated the DODIIS Initial Evaluation Report on IAIPS.  That report identified major problems which have developed in the project.  These primarily involved a failure to define satisfactorily system level specifications and management problems, both on the part of the government and the contractor.  The DIA report also details corrective action which has been taken, particularly the reorganization of the government management structure and the strengthening of the validation and verification effort in support of the PMO.  We believe that this was an important step forward and should result in improved performance on the part of the contractor.  However, in the final analysis, the success of the project is dependent upon the ability of the contractor to meet his contractual obligations.  Both DIA and the IC Staff will continue to monitor the effectiveness of corrective actions taken and will supply the Committee such additional information as may be required.

A major review and redirection of the SAFE project is presently underway. A recent audit team report has identified problems relating to schedule performance, expected increases in cost, management supervision, and technical design approaches. As a result of the conclusions of this audit, senior ADP management of both CIA and DIA have focused their attention to the solution of these problems. As soon as the problems have been resolved, a supplemental report will be filed with the Committee providing details of the evaluation and the corrective actions which have been instituted.

Abolition of IRO:

In January 1978, the Information Resources Office was established as part of a larger organizational change which encompassed the division of the Intelligence Community Staff into two essentially separate staffs--the Resource Management Staff and the Collection Tasking Staff. This reorganization entailed a substantial increase in the size of the total Intelligence Community Staff, a substantial portion of which ⎣⎦positions)     STAT
was allocated to the Information Resources Office as part of the Resource Management Staff.

With the advent of the present Administration, however, it was determined that the Intelligence Community Staff should be recombined, that some functions should be dropped and others added, and that personnel complement should be reduced. These changes received considerable support from Congressional oversight committees. Indeed, the number of personnel to be assigned to the Intelligence Community Staff was further reduced by Congressional action. As a result, it was necessary to reduce the number of staff personnel devoted solely to ADP and telecommunications oversight. This was facilitated by returning the responsibility for review of the ADP and telecommunications portions of the National Foreign Intelligence Progam budget to the program monitors in the Office of Program and Budget Coordination of the IC Staff.
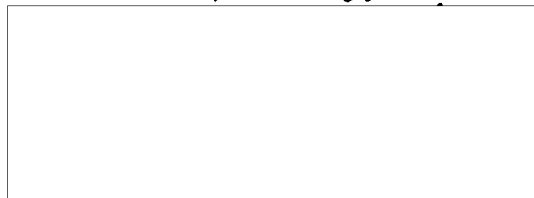
Responsibility for developing and recommending plans and programs relating to improvements in Community ADP and telecommunications has been retained by the Intelligence Community Staff and is embodied in the DCI Intelligence Information Handling Committee. The Chairman of the Committee is a full-time member of the IC Staff and is assisted by three full-time professionals, organized as an element of the staff's Office of Community Coordination. The Chairman is still recognized as the chief ADP official for the Intelligence Community.

ADP Oversight for FY 84 Budget:

Because of the reduction in total IC Staff personnel levels mentioned above, the individual program monitors will review Community ADP-T activities as part of the annual budget process beginning with the FY 1984 submission. While we believe such a review to be both proper and responsive to your concerns I would hasten to add, and I'm sure you will agree, that it is no substitute for adequate management within the sponsoring programs. I believe that ADP-T management can only be enhanced by disciplined review and structured oversight, but the basic management task rests with the program manager. Shortcomings that may appear in management at the project and program level cannot be offset by adding more detailed review at the IC Staff level.

I trust the foregoing information will meet your requirements.  Please do not hesitate to call upon me should you require additional details.

Respectfully,

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SUBJECT:  Ltr to Edward P. Boland, Chm/HPSCI
          re HPSCI Request on FY 1983 NFIP


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